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Good Afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen,

My name is Alfred "Rusty" Meek, of Manchester, Connecticut. I am also the State Commander of the Veterans of foreign Wars, Department of Connecticut, and belong to several other veterans' and community organizations in the State of Connecticut. Most of you know me; I am a big supporter of Veterans Bills. I support most of the bills before this committee.

I strongly recommend support for the bill to raise the exemption of the retirement pay of military from 50% to 100%. We are one of the few states that don't give our retired military personnel, who come back home, a break on their retirement pay, or anything else, when they return or decide to stay in this state.

Let me explain something, today, veterans have no financial problems; we are used to having financial problems and this is a normal day for veterans and widows. Maybe there are problems for some political members of the state or federal government, but veterans have no problems. Today is "just a normal financial day for us". Trying to make end meet in the State of Connecticut.

I feel that his committee should not be a sub-committee, because, and thank to the members of this committee, most of the bill make it out to regular committees, and there they get lost. There are some people who say that they want to help all veterans, well how come, 90% of the bills that had money involved, don't get out of committee, or were not passed by legislation. But yet, at the same time, you give thousands of dollars to illegal aliens, in the State of Connecticut, and some of this money is (our) veterans and widows tax money. And we didn't approve that

I told you years ago, if you don't do something about the retired veterans in this state, they are going to move, and I plan to join them, to a state that will take care of us. Again, to remind you, we also almost lost the submarine base, part of that

was because retired personnel did not use the submarine base, and this income was lost. This was part of the evaluation (just a small part) on keeping or closing the any base.

What does this state have to offer retirees, young veterans or widows? When someone retires or is discharged, you people, as part of the State of Connecticut, you don't have anything to offer them, to stay here or return home to Connecticut. When a veteran retires or is discharge from the Armed Forces, and they move, we loss. We loss all the update technical knowledge that veterans and retirees has, plus Leadership. The able to take charge and get the job do right and properly.

Again, I ask you to talk to your peers on other committees, please pass this bills, it not much, but it a start towards keeping our young veterans and retirees in the State of Connecticut.

Thank you and God Bless America.